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Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Writings of

Dwight D. Eisenhower

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71-2009.085.02089

Eisenhower, Dwight

Louisville Courier-Journal Apr. 24, 1954

Ike Makes First Visit To Little Abe's Country

Crowds Follow as President Speaks, Eats, And Accepts Gifts at Hodgenville Shrines

By GRADY CLAY
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Hodgenville, Ky., April 23.—For a few quiet moments today the President of the United States stood still and silent near an old Kentucky log cabin, reading a poem.

It was "Lincoln, The Man of The People," by Edwin Markham.

"The color of the ground was in him, the red earth;
The smack and tang of elemental things,
The rectitude and patience of the cliff;
The good-will of the rain that loves all leaves. . . ."

Dwight D. Eisenhower continued to read, standing in the massive marble and granite Lincoln Shrine that houses the cabin near Hodgenville. Outside, some 2,000 Kentuckians waited in the warm sun to catch a glimpse of him during his 7-hour visit to Kentucky. The President's tanned face was intent, concentrated.

His First Pilgrimage

It was Ike's first pilgrimage to the tiny log cabin believed to be Lincoln's birthplace and the scene of Little Abe's childhood. A stone's throw down the hill, cool waters flowed from Sinking Spring, which served the Lincoln family.

Four other presidents had been here before Eisenhower: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The poem finished, the cabin examined, the President walked out into the sunlight to face the colorful crowd that spilled down the granite steps, overflowed through the locust and cedar woods, stood knee deep in dark myrtle, in green grass still wet from morning showers.

In A Lincoln, Not A Jalopy

"Long have I looked forward to an opportunity to visit this shrine, which is so truly American," he said.

"Never in my wildest moment, did I picture in my mind this kind of occasion. I saw myself driving up in an ordinary jalopy, and stopping with my family to look and visit this great spot."

(Instead of a jalopy, the President had arrived yesterday in a bright red Lincoln convertible with Senator John Sherman Cooper, behind a police escort, with coveys of Secret Service men ahead and behind, and a caravan of photographers, correspondents, and friends.)

No 'Pseudodictator'

"I think I could best express my feelings about Lincoln in this way," said Eisenhower. "In my office in the White House I have sketches of four Great Americans on the wall: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington,

Column 7, Page 4, This Section

Ike Makes First Pilgrimage To Country of Little Abe

Continued from First Page

Abraham Lincoln, and Robert E. Lee."

He then praised Lincoln as an example of a great leader who never publicly excoriated another American, or posed as a "pseudodictator."

If he was contrasting Lincoln with any modern public figure, the President did not identify that figure.

"Abraham Lincoln has always seemed to me to represent all that is best in America in terms of its opportunity and the readiness of Americans always to raise up and exalt these people who live by truth, whose lives are examples of integrity and dedication to our country," he said.

"You can find no instance where he stood up in public and excoriated another American. You can find no instance where he is reported to have slapped or pounded the table, or struck the pose of a pseudodictator, or of an arbitrary individual."

Returns for Last Look

"He knew there were divisive influences at work, but he knew also they were transitory in char-

Trail Medal, presented to him earlier at Lincoln Shrine by Bob Baughman, a Louisville explorer scout and also a holder of the medal. All Scouts must walk the 34-1-mile Lincoln Trail from Elizabethtown to Hodgenville to earn the medal.

Eisenhower also received a plaque of the Boy Scout Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge No. 123 from Baughman, who lives at 3703 Nanz Avenue. With Baughman were Tiny Riggs, 3728 W. Broadway, and Bill Billips, 4630 Riverview, all scouts; and M. R. Disborough, Scout executive.

About 50 scouts from the Louisville area earned their own medals yesterday, winding up a two-day hike along highways and country trails to the Lincoln Shrine.

Gets Second Helpings

Lunch for the 123 guests at the Women's Club had been prepared by the Club members, who also served.

The President liked the Kentucky ham and the cheese pudding so much he asked for, and got, second helpings. Not only that, but he asked for, and got, the pudding recipe to take back to wife Mamie. It has long been a favorite around Hodgenville.

(The recipe from Mrs. L. L. Hamilton, club president:

(In a baking dish, place a layer of rolled cracker crumbs moistened well with a medium cream sauce. Add a layer of grated American cheese, a layer of grated pimientos [one can to a recipe], and a layer of grated boiled eggs [four to a recipe].

(Repeat layers. Be sure the crumbs are well moistened. Otherwise the pudding will be dry.

(Top with buttered crumbs. Bake until pudding is heated thoroughly.)

He's The Last To Leave

After lunch, the President said he'd "asked for the floor under the 1-minute rule." Then he delighted the crowd by asking their permission to be allowed to stand by the door and greet each guest as he left.

The President was the last guest to leave. Down the steps he went, into a closed sedan, and away to Godman Field, through streets lined with onlookers anxious for a glimpse of still another President who found inspiration at the birthplace of his predecessor.

Is Appointed Fund Drive

tee that will sponsor a drive for
e American-Korean Foundation
Victor A. Sholis, Louisville area
president of J. P. Morgan &
Company. Mrs. Wendell L. Wil-
kie is women's activities chair-
man.
"The American-Korean Foun-

Fred Obroff, Wheelwright, Ky.,
and Martin Christensen, Ham-
mond, Ind.

They said the escape was pulled off successfully, but the four were recaptured the next day by two unarmed Chinese officials.

Obroff said that Dickenson later told him that he had given the Chinese guards a report on the escape and had told him: "I had to tell them. They put a gun to my head and forced me."

Obroff testified that he had been beaten by the Reds but that he did not know whether Dickenson had been punished.

Republicans in town than we ever saw before!"

The wreath laid, the President walked across the square to the rock-walled Hodgenville Women's Club.

Is Given A Cane

At the foot of the steps, he was presented with a cane of oak, cedar, and walnut from the Lincoln Park by the Ladies Lincoln League. He called "Moaney!" and John Moaney, his personal valet wearing the small lapel insignia of the Secret Service, stepped up to take charge of the cane. "Guard it with your life," the President said with a smile.

The club was bursting with people. County Republican chairmen, State senators, local officials from all over Kentucky were there for "lunch with Ike."

The President sat between Lewis A. Mather, Hodgenville program chairman, and Mrs. John Robsion, wife of the Third District congressman.

Before lunch, the President was presented with a Kentucky ham by Barber Smith, in behalf of the Lincoln Republican Clubs of Kentucky.

"That's a lot more welcome at home than a bunch of roses when I get back," the President commented.

The ham was his third Kentucky gift of the morning. The first was an honorary Lincoln

predecessor.

Courier-Journal Photo by James N. Keen

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LAYS MEMORIAL WREATH ON LINCOLN STATUE AT HODGENVILLE

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2-12-55

HE SACRAMENTO BEE, SAT

President Pauses In Hunting To Praise Lincoln

By Marvin L. Arrowsmith

THOMASVILLE, Ga. — AP— President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared today on Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary that "the greatness of the Republican Party is, and will be, measured by the intensity of its devotion" to Lincoln's faith in America.

Eisenhower's message on the 146th anniversary of the first Republican president's birth was made public as the chief executive continued a weekend of rest and quail shooting at the plantation estate here of Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey.

Exemplifies Cause

"In the present worldwide struggle between freedom and tyranny," Eisenhower declared, "Lincoln exemplifies the cause of America — by his faith in the individual man and woman; by his devotion to the concept that they are in fact endowed with liberty and inalienable rights; by his high resolution that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.'

"The greatness of the Republican Party is, and will be, measured by the intensity of its devotion to the faith of Lincoln.

"For all Americans, this year's observance of Lincoln Day should renew our determination to uphold the historic freedoms upon which our progress, security and happiness as a nation continue to depend."

Political Bow

Eisenhower's brief reference to the Republican Party in the birthday message was his only bow to the political significance of the day. Unlike many other GOP leaders throughout the country, he planned no speechmaking to mark the occasion.

Bad Hunting

He did hope for a change in the bad luck which brought him back to the Humphrey home yesterday without a single quail after 90 minutes of hunting.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1307 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA April 26, 1954

EISENHOWER VISITS THE KENTUCKY LINCOLN COUNTRY

Once upon a time there was born of humble parents in a Kentucky cabin a poor boy who eventually came to occupy the executive mansion in the nation's capital. We now observe the trail from "log cabin to White House" being followed in reverse as in recent years five Presidents have come from the White House to the log cabin. The last chief executive to make the pilgrimage was President Eisenhower who set apart Friday, April 23, 1954 as a day to visit the Kentucky Lincoln country.

Arriving at Fort Knox by plane at 10:10 A.M. he reviewed the Amoured Force Troops, but it was not likely that he was advised that close by the Fort Knox vault where the nation's gold is deposited there lies buried the remains of Bersheba Lincoln, maternal grandmother of the Sixteenth President. Even at the fort, Eisenhower actually was already in the Kentucky Lincoln country. Traveling by auto the twenty-five miles to Hodgenville he passed through Elizabethtown where Lincoln's parents first settled after their marriage and where their first child was born. Also at Elizabethtown the widow Sarah Bush Johnston married the widower Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham.

Reaching the Lincoln Birthplace Farm, and after observing the enshrined cabin, the President addressed an estimated audience of 4500 people. We are happy to be able to print his address in full in this issue of the bulletin. Returning to Hodgenville, President Eisenhower placed a wreath at the base of the Lincoln statue in the court house square and then was served luncheon by the Ladies Lincoln League. The editor of *Lincoln Lore* was pleased to be invited to an especially reserved area at the birthplace and also to receive an invitation to the Eisenhower luncheon. On that same day at Lexington the editor sat in the reserved section in front of the speaker's stand.

The President arrived in the blue grass city by plane and addressed the 175 anniversary convocation of Transylvania College, the oldest institution of higher learning west of the Allegheny Mountains. The forebears of Mary Todd, wife of President Lincoln were instrumental in establishing the college and Mary's father was a graduate of the Lexington school. Henry Clay, Lincoln's "beau ideal of a statesman" was a professor of law there. President Eisenhower attended the reception in the newly dedicated Francis Carrick Thomas Library erected on the campus and may have observed some of the rare volumes which were at one time stored in the home of Levi Todd, grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln when the college was without room to house them. Abraham Lincoln visited Lexington on occasions so when President Eisenhower departed from Lexington, as upon his arrival at Fort Knox, he was still in the Kentucky Lincoln country.

President Eisenhower's speech at the Lincoln Shrine near Hodgenville, April 23, 1954.

"Senator Cooper, my fellow citizens:

"Long have I looked forward to an opportunity to visit this shrine, which is so truly American. Now, never in my wildest moment, did I picture in my mind this kind of occasion. I saw myself driving up in an ordinary jalopy, and stopping with my family to look and visit this great spot.

"I am truly honored by the courtesy you show me in being here today that I may greet you and bring a word of welcome from your far-off capital, Washington.

"I think I could best express my feelings about Lincoln in this way. In my office in the White House I have sketches of four great Americans on the wall—Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Robert E. Lee.

"Abraham Lincoln has always seemed to me to represent all that is best in America in terms of its opportunity and the readiness of Americans always to raise up and exalt these people who live by truth, whose lives are examples of integrity and dedication to our country.

"I would like to speak about two or three characteristics of Lincoln that I think most of us could now remind ourselves, possibly with profit. He was a great leader. I would like to remind you of the methods he used in leadership.

"You can find no instances when he stood up in public and excoriated another American. You can find no instance where he reported to have slapped or pounded the table, and struck the pose of a pseudodictator, or an arbitrary individual.

"Rather, the qualities he shared and exhibited were forebearance in the extreme—patience. Once, he called upon General McClellan, and the President went over to the General's house—a process which I assure you had been reversed long since—and General McClellan decided he did not want to see the President and went to bed.

"Lincoln's friends criticized him severely for allowing a mere general to treat him that way. And he said, 'All I want out of General McClellan is a victory and if to hold his horse will bring it, I will gladly hold his horse.'

"This means one thing: Lincoln's leadership was accomplished through dedication to a single purpose, the preservation of the Union. He understood deeply the great values that unite us all as a people, Georgia with New York and Massachusetts with Texas, California with Florida. He knew that there were divisive influences at work, but he knew also they were transitory in character; they were flaming with heat, but they were made of stuff that would soon burn itself out.

"The true values of America he understood are enduring, and they hold us together. And so he was patient. He was forebearing. He was understanding. And he lives today in our hearts as one of the greatest that the English-speaking race has produced, and as a great leader. Yet never did he fall into the false habit of striking a Napoleonic attitude at any time and under any provocation.

"We remember his words because they still mean for us and still explain to us what this country is:

"The greatest power in God's footstool that has been permitted to exist. A power for good, among ourselves, and in all the world.

"And he—this great Lincoln—was the one who did so much to give us the opportunity to live at a time when that would be so—when America's leadership in the world is necessary to the preservation of freedom and of liberty in that world, just as his presence in the 1860's was necessary to the preservation of liberty and freedom and union of this nation.

"Thank you again for the great honor you do me for coming out here. I cannot tell you how happy I am, at least, to have the opportunity of coming to the birthplace of Lincoln, a man who for me—like all of you—has been an idol since the days of my first memories.

"Thank you and good-bye."

Text of Ike's Talk At Lincoln Shrine

President Praises A Patient Man Who Never Excoriated His Fellows

President Eisenhower's speech at the Lincoln Shrine near Hodgenville follows:

Senator Cooper, my fellow citizens:

Long have I looked forward to an opportunity to visit this shrine, which is so truly American. Now, never in my wildest moment, did I picture in my mind this kind of occasion. I saw myself driving up in an ordinary jalopy, and stopping with my family to look and visit this great spot.

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I think I could best express my feelings about Lincoln in this way. In my office in the White House I have sketches of four great Americans on the wall—Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Robert E. Lee.

Never Struck A Pose

Abraham Lincoln has always seemed to me to represent all that is best in America in terms of its opportunity and the readiness of Americans always to raise up and exalt these people who live by truth, whose lives are examples of integrity and dedication to our country.

I would like to speak about two or three characteristics of Lincoln that I think most of us could now remind ourselves, possibly with profit. He was a great leader. I would like to remind you of the methods he used in leadership.

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Spurned by General

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True Values Endure

The true values of America he understood are enduring, and the yhold us together. And so he was patient. He was forebearing. He was understanding. And he lives today in our hearts as one of the greatest that the English-speaking race has produced, and as a great leader. Yet never did he fall into the false habit of striking a Napoleonic attitude at any time and under any provocation.

We remember his words because they still mean for us and still explain to us what this country is:

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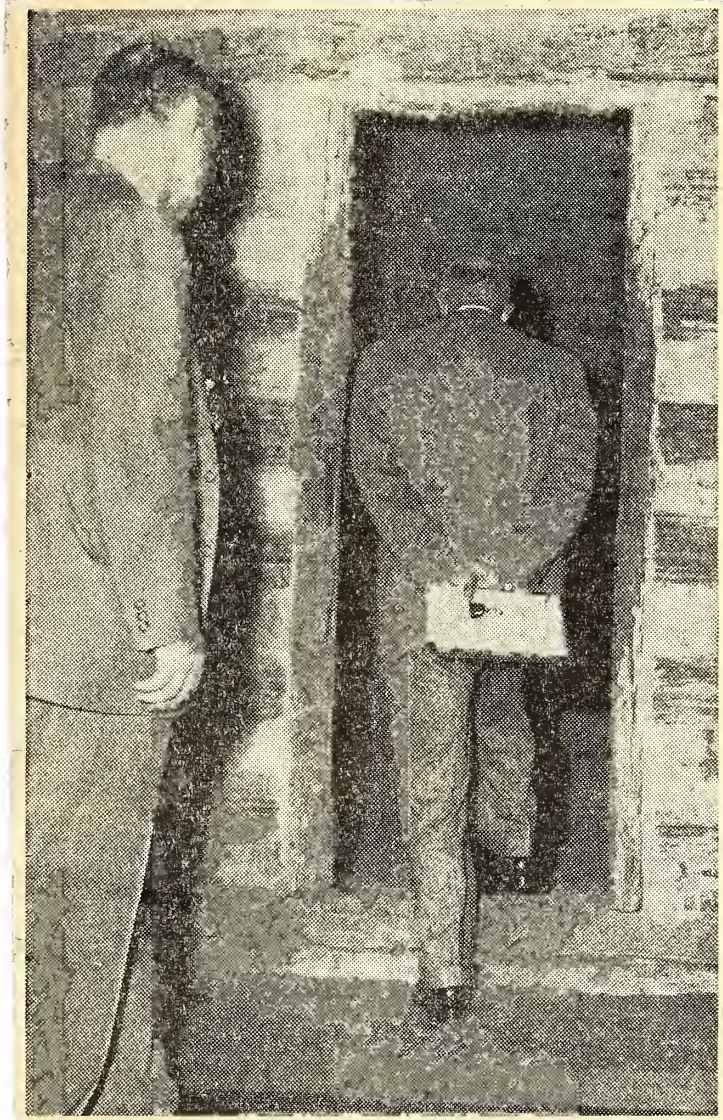
Thank you and good-bye.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KY.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1954.

Eisenhower Is Warmly Greeted On Three-Stop Kentucky Tour

LINCOLN EULOGY . . . An estimated 2,000 persons heard President Eisenhower as he stood in front of the Lincoln Shrine near Hodgenville and paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln as "one of the greatest men the English-speaking people ever produced." The President was roundly cheered by those who could see him as he emerged.



OPEN DOOR . . . The latchstring was on the outside for President Eisenhower at the Lincoln cabin in the Lincoln Shrine. It was his first pilgrimage there.

Courier-Journal Photos by James N. Keen, George Bailey, and Jim Harlan

PRESIDENT PAUSES . . . "Traditional Lincoln Birthplace Cabin" is what President Eisenhower read as he paused in the Lincoln Shrine near Hodgenville before entering the humble log cabin in which Abe was born.

A Hallowed Relic With Hectic History

Eisenhower Becomes Fifth President To Visit Cabin Where Lincoln Was Born

By ALLAN M. TROUT, *The Courier-Journal Frankfort Bureau*

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the fifth President of the United States to journey to a spring of water three miles south of Hodgenville, and there stand in reverence before the 143 logs that sheltered a baby named Abraham Lincoln 145 years ago.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first to come. On February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, he dedicated the cornerstone of the magnificent stone temple that shelters the frail little cabin from the elements.

William Howard Taft was the second. He dedicated the austere edifice of Tennessee marble and Connecticut granite on November 9, 1911.

Woodrow Wilson was the third. It was September 14, 1916, that he stood by while Newton D. Baker, his Secretary of War, received the Lincoln Memorial and an endowment of $50,000 as a gift from citizens to the United States.

TRADITIONAL LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE CABIN

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the fourth. It was June 14, 1936, that he visited the Lincoln shrine, not for any put public purpose, but simply to refresh his soul by seeing and feeling it.

And now, April 23, 1954, will go down as the day President Eisenhower snatched a few minutes out of seven hours in Kentucky to kneel in spirit at the genesis place of his great predecessor in the White House.

A Hectic History

Few, if any, hallowed relics in this Nation have had a more hectic history than the little one-room birth cabin of Lincoln, the sixteenth President.

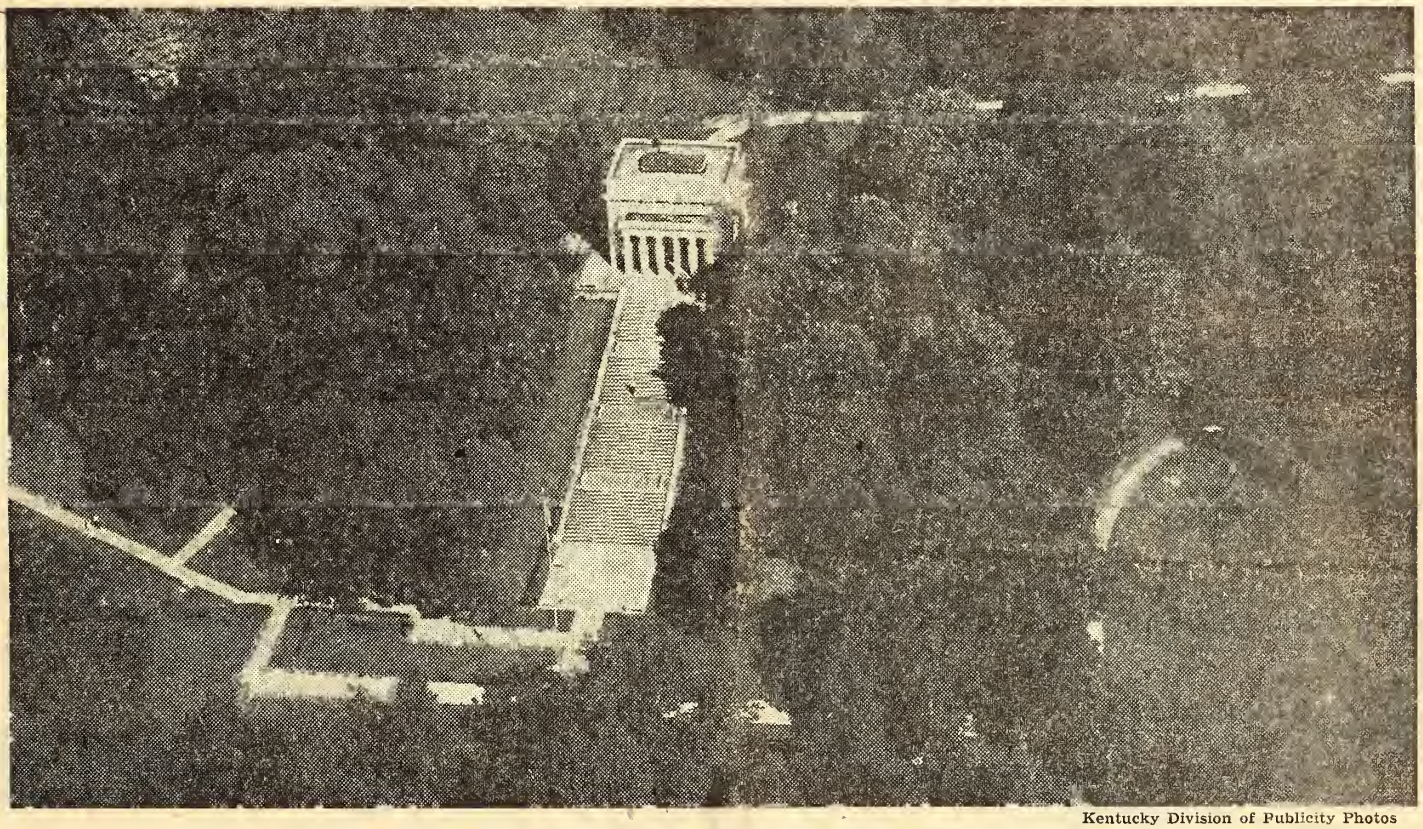
His father, Thomas Lincoln, then living at Elizabethtown, paid Isaac Bush $200 for the 348½-acre farm in December, 1808. The place lay on South Fork of Nolin River, three miles south of Robert Hodgen's mill, the site of modern Hodgenville. The old Cumberland Road, between Louisville and Nashville, ran in front of the premises. The cabin set back off the road a piece, by the side of Sinking Spring, a fabulous spring whose water is still sweet and fresh and cool.

The boy Abraham was born two months later, and lived the first two years of his life in the 16x18-foot cabin. Then, in 1813, Thomas moved his family to Knob Creek, eight miles north, but still on Cumberland Road.

First to become interested in the cabin as a priceless memento of history worth saving was Dr. George Rodman, a physician who owned a farm one mile north of the old Lincoln place. Shortly after Lincoln was elected President in 1861, Dr. Rodman bought the cabin from Richard Creal, then owner of the Lincoln farm, and reconstructed it on his own farm.

The Rodman farm at last passed to the ownership of John Davenport, so, in 1894, Davenport sold the cabin to Alfred W. Dennett, New York City. At the same time, Creal sold Dennett 110½ acres of the old Lincoln place, a tract that included the original home site by Sinking Spring.

Dennett first took the cabin back to Sinking Spring and rebuilt it on a knoll nearby. Then he carefully numbered the 143 logs, tore it down, and reconstructed it for exhibition in Central Park at New York, at the Centennial of Nashville, Tenn., in 1894, and the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1901. David Creer bought it in 1904 and stored the logs on Long Island.



Kentucky Division of Publicity Photos

AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE BEAUTIFUL LINCOLN MEMORIAL SOUTH OF HODGENVILLE

The historic cabin, seen by millions on exhibition, stirred great public interest on behalf of public ownership and preservation. Thus it was that Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly, acquired the cabin in 1905, and deeded it to the Lincoln Farm Association in 1907.

Meantime, the dismantled cabin had been brought to Louisville in 1906, put together for exhibition at the Louisville Homecoming that year, and dismantled again. It was reconstructed at Sinking Spring in 1909 for the centennial of Lincoln's birth, taken back to Louisville, then reconstructed, at last, in the great shrine built by popular subscription to shelter it.

The Department of Interior administers the 110½-acre shrine for year-around, free showing to the public. It is one of the leading tourist attractions in Kentucky.

It will be of interest to compare President Eisenhower's tribute to Lincoln with similar quotations from his four predecessors who visited the hallowed environs of Sinking Spring. History has favored these selections from them:

Theodore Roosevelt—"The lover of his country and all mankind; the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days, Abraham Lincoln!"

William Howard Taft—"The oppressed and lowly of all peoples, as liberty and free government spread, pronounce his name with awe. . . . The harmony of his message with every popular aspiration of freedom proves his universality."

Woodrow Wilson—"As he stands there in his complete manhood at the most perilous helm of Christendom, what a marvelous composite figure he is! The whole country is summed up in him!"

Franklin Delano Roosevelt—"With his charity and kindness, his insight and humor, his endurance and faith. (Lincoln) has come to be the exemplar of our American life."

Copy of President Eisenhower's speech at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park from The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky., April 24, 1954

Senator Cooper, my fellow citizens: Long have I looked forward to an opportunity to visit this shrine, which is so truly American. Now, never in my wildest moment, did I picture in my mind this kind of occasion. I saw myself driving up in an ordinary jalopy, and stopping with my family to look and visit this great spot.

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Thank you and good-bye.

COPY

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT DRAWER 27 TRIBUTES